

In the Claims:

The entire set of pending claims is shown below.

1 1. (Original) A consumable order assistance system for
2 computer peripheral devices, comprising:
3 a personal computer having a web browser and a messaging
4 system;
E /5 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging
6 system;
7 a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a
8 seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device via the web browser;
9 and
10 a consumable order assistance computer program provided on the
11 personal computer and configured to receive a notification from the computer
12 peripheral device via the messaging system of a need to order a consumable,
13 alert a user of the personal computer of the notification, and provide an order
14 location to the user for the consumable.

1 2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable
2 order assistance computer program is further configured to collect a series of
3 notifications and summarize the series of notifications for one or more computer
4 peripheral devices.

1 3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable
2 order assistance computer program consolidates a plurality of notifications from
3 the at least one computer peripheral device.

1 4. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable
2 order assistance computer program is further configured to request identification
3 from a user to verify authorization of the user to submit an order.

1 5. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable
2 order assistance computer program is further configured to request at least one

3 level of authorization from a user before sending an order via the communication
4 link to a reseller of the consumable.

1 6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable
2 order assistance computer program is further configured to request at least one
3 level of authorization from a user before sending an order via the communication
4 link to a reseller of the consumable.

1 7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable
2 order assistance computer program is further configured to prompt a customer
3 user for authorization information.

1 8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the
2 communication link comprises an electronic communication link that enables the
3 consumable order assistance computer program to submit an e-mail order.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the
2 communication link comprises an electronic communication link that enables the
3 consumable order assistance computer program to submit a facsimile order.

1 10. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented system
2 which implements a program in which consumable components of computer
3 peripheral devices are replenished, the system comprising:

4 a notification system that alerts a user of a personal computer that
5 they need to order a consumable for a computer peripheral device associated
6 with the personal computer;

7 a facilitation system that provides a communication link with a
8 reseller of the consumable; and

9 at least one from a list of a consolidation system for consolidating
10 a plurality of orders, an authorization system for confirming that a user is
11 authorized to place an order for the consumable, and an order assistance system
12 that places an order for the consumable.

1 11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the notification
2 system identifies for the user a part number for a consumable that needs to be
3 ordered for the computer peripheral device.

1 12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the notification
2 system comprises a messaging system within an embedded web server of a
3 computer peripheral device and a messaging system within a personal computer.

1 13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the personal
2 computer further comprises a browser, and the messaging system comprises an
3 e-mail application, wherein the computer peripheral device sends an e-mail
4 notification to the personal computer to alert a user to a need to order a
5 consumable.

1 14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the e-mail
2 notification identifies the consumable by a part number.

1 15. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the system
2 comprises the consolidation system configured to aggregate a plurality of
3 notifications for one or more computer peripheral devices.

1 16. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the system
2 comprises the authorization system configured to request authorization from a
3 user prior to automatically submitting an order for the consumable to a reseller
4 of the consumable.

1 17. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the system
2 comprises the order assistance system configured to automatically submit an
3 order for the consumable in response to receiving a notification that a
4 consumable needs to be ordered.

81

1 18. (Original) A method of providing order assistance,
2 comprising:
3 providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having
4 a communication link with a reseller of a consumable, and a messaging system
5 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer;
6 detecting a need to replenish a consumable at the computer
7 peripheral device;
8 notifying a user at the personal computer of the need to replenish
9 the consumable;
10 providing an order address location to a user for a reseller that sells
11 the consumable; and
12 placing an order for the consumable with the reseller using the
13 personal computer.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein placing the order
2 comprises automatically placing the order for the consumable in response to
3 notifying the user.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein, prior to placing
2 an order, querying a user to authorize placing the order with an identified
3 reseller.

1 21. (Previously presented) A consumable order assistance
2 system for computer peripheral devices, comprising:
3 a personal computer having a web browser and a messaging
4 system;
5 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging
6 system;
7 a bi-directional communication link signal coupling the personal
8 computer with a seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device via
9 the web browser, the bi-directional communication link configured to enable a
10 user to interact with the computer peripheral device to obtain information on a

11 consumable for one computer peripheral device including at least one of
 12 consumable levels, media levels and types, warnings, notifications, job
 13 assurance, and printer capabilities;

14 a consumable order assistance computer program provided on the
 15 personal computer and configured to receive a notification from the computer
 16 peripheral device via the messaging system of a need to order a consumable,
 17 alert a user of the personal computer of the notification, and provide an order
 18 location to the user for the consumable; and

19 a server communicating with one of the personal computer and the
 20 at least one computer peripheral device and including a centralized management
 21 database having information pulled from the Internet and comprising at least one
 22 of consumable part numbers, alternative consumable part numbers, and
 23 information for selecting a reseller.

1 22. (Previously presented) The consumable order assistance
 2 system of claim 21 wherein at least one of the server and the at least one
 3 computer peripheral device proactively generates a warning to a user at the
 4 personal computer comprising information on an upcoming issue regarding
 5 maintenance and operation of a selected computer peripheral device.

1 23. (Previously presented) The consumable order assistance
 2 system of claim 21 wherein the personal computer includes an application
 3 interface comprising an extended data interface.

1 24. (Previously presented) The consumable order assistance
 2 system of claim 21 wherein the centralized management database is configured for
 3 interaction with a maintainer at the personal computer to enable determination of
 4 when to replace a consumable as well as at least one of what consumable to
 5 replace, alternative parts for the associated peripheral device, issue urgency,
 6 proactive warning of one or more next issues, computer peripheral device location,
 7 owner/contact information, computer peripheral device model information, and
 8 impending maintenance notification.